

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

“The Heart of the Matter”

God Looks on the Heart-

1 Sam 16:1-7

- 1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."
- 2 But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"
- 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."
- 4 Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"
- 5 Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
- 6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD."
- 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart.**" NIV

God is always interested in the heart of the matter. His pattern is always to work from the inside out.

1 Sam 16:8-13

- 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either."
- 9 Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one."
- 10 Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these."
- 11 So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."
- 12 So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."
- 13 So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah. NIV

Even though David's appearance was agreeable, it was not what Samuel was expecting for a warrior king that was going to replace a man who stood head-and-shoulders above everybody else. What qualified David? His heart.

Heb 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. NKJV

The Lord is not only interested in what we do, but how and why we do it.

Jer 17:9-10

9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

10 "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve." NIV

Though the heart is in the center of things and deceitful, its true intent cannot be hidden forever. Eventually, the heart will out.

Matt 15:1-11

1 Then some Pharisees and teachers of the law came to Jesus from Jerusalem and asked,

2 "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!"

3 Jesus replied, "And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?"

4 For God said, 'Honor your father and mother' and 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.'

5 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother, 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is a gift devoted to God,'

6 he is not to 'honor his father' with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

8 "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."

10 Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand.

11 What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" NIV

Here, Jesus makes the point that it is not the outward coming in that is most defiling. It is what is inside coming out that defiles.

Matt 15:12-16

12 Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?"

13 He replied, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots.

14 Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

15 Peter said, "Explain the parable to us."

16 "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. NIV

If nothing else, the disciples should teach us to be humble. How often have we been preoccupied by religious protocol and “not offending” that we have missed the entire point of what Christ is saying?

Matt 15:17-20

17 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?

18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'

19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

20 These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'" NIV

The heart issues of evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander make us unclean as they are manifested by coming out of the mouth.

Matt 12:33-35

33 "Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit.

34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? **For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.**

35 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. NIV

What is in our heart will eventually pour out of our mouth. This is why I said that the heart cannot remain hidden long. A tree is recognized by its fruit.

Luke 6:43-45

43 "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. NIV

Luke verifies the same truth and further exemplifies for us that heart issues are fruit issues. Good things out of a good heart is the same as good fruit out of a good tree. You know a tree by its fruit, you know a heart by what is spoken.

Have you ever had difficulty discerning the voice of the Lord? Have you ever wondered, was that me or the Holy Spirit?

Many things happen in the name of the Holy Spirit in charismatic circles. There are diverse opinions about what the Holy Spirit will do and what He won't do. How are we to know? How do we know the heart of the Holy Spirit of God?

Gal 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. KJV

If it is true that “by their fruit ye shall know them,” then it must also be true that by His fruit, we may also know Him. The Holy Spirit’s actions will be marked by love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control. We are going to examine each of these aspects of His fruit that:

- 1. We may know Him and His ways.*
- 2. We may understand these qualities of His character and how they affect us.*
- 3. We may learn to sow to the Spirit to reap from Him life everlasting.*